

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

INSPECTION REPORT

Howard K. O'Brien,

September 1, 1909.

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SECTION: IV – GRAZING.

The Umatilla National Forest is divided into two distinctive divisions; the northern division contains 292,176 acres. Approximately 46,800 acres of this area or about 16 per cent is alienated land and not within the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The southern division contains 247,824 acres. Approximately 103,280 acres of this area or 41.6 per cent is alienated land. This large amount of deeded land in the southern division has made it very difficult to administer from a grazing standpoint. Formerly in estimating the grazing capacity of this Forest, mistakes were made in figuring the private lands and the large areas included in sheep trails, as Forest land. Some permittees were allotted almost entirely on patented timber lands; a large per cent of which were afterward leased to outside sheepmen who made application for their use under Regulation 65. These leases being filed with the Supervisor late in the season, naturally upset the allotments and caused many grazing complications.

General Range Conditions

Two successive dry years, together with an overstocked range, has left part of the Umatilla National Forest in a deplorable condition. It is very evident that the ranges on this Forest were very badly overgrazed before it was under the administration of the Forest Service. This Forest is an old trailing ground to the higher summer ranges on the Whitman, Deschutes and Malheur National Forests. Several hundred thousand sheep cross this Forest every season. Before it was under administration, it was the common practice to cross thousands of sheep before the grass was mature, in their hurry to reach the high summer ranges first. Few sheep trails were followed, but the nearest and most practicable routes were taken, making practically the whole Forest a trailing ground.

Almost the entire Forest is in the Transition or yellow pine zone. The one exception is in the northeastern part of the northern division, which is in the Canadian or lodgepole zone. This in reality is the only summer range in this Forest. Owing to the open character of the yellow pine forests, there is usually a dense stand of pine grass, mixed with clover, lupine, sunflower, etc. The pine grass is considered low in nutritive qualities and usually is only eaten by stock when more palatable forage can not be obtained, but on this Forest it is the most important forage and is much sought after.

At lower elevations where the timber is very scattering or entirely absent, the vegetation is made up largely of bunchgrass. These lower areas are usually in the cattle ranges and are in good condition, also the high ranges in the Potamus sheep range on the

head of Ditch and Willow Creeks, but the big per cent of the sheep ranges were trailed into a dust bed.

On account of the few camps that had sufficient water for stock it has been impossible to enforce Regulation 60, which has necessitated a great deal of trailing and damage to the range. The open ridges and slopes in many places were trailed into a dust bed, making it an easy matter to locate a band of sheep several miles distant, by the dust. Several bands of sheep were compelled to leave the Forest the first part of August, before one-half the grazing season had expired, on account of the shortage of forage. Refunds should be made to these stockmen, in proportion to the grazing season they could not keep their stock on the Forest.

Condition of Stock

The condition of the stock generally was good, but with the scarcity of water and no grass, the shrinking season is certainly ahead of them. The condition of the cattle was excellent, and the butchers' beef buyers and cattlemen all agree that the beef was the best taken off these ranges for a number of years. The first beef rodeo was about July 10, which is almost a month earlier than usual and the last beef rodeo about August 20. Yearlings were sold for beef, which is certainly unusual. The condition of the sheep was good, for a stock range, as the sheepmen do not claim to turn fat stuff off the range, as is possible from the higher ranges in the adjoining Forests. The Umatilla ranges are only adapted for stock sheep, and in ordinary years it is a physical impossibility to turn fat sheep off the open ranges.

Change in Class of Stock

Many complications are bound to arise on the Umatilla National Forest this fall, by cattle permittees desiring to change their class of stock from cattle to sheep. With the best market for cattle they have had for years, and the best beef they have turned off the range for years, it is difficult to understand why so many desire to embark in the sheep business, especially when they know the conditions and scarcity of the sheep range. They have sold off most of the stock cattle in the Fox and Long Creek valleys, with the intention of buying sheep. This exchange should be allowed them on a fair range basis of 4 to 1, providing it can be done without injuring other permittees. Cattle ranges almost entirely surround the Fox and Long Creek valleys which are suitable for either cattle or sheep grazing. If it appears to be an advantage to the majority of the users of these particular ranges to allow some of the cattlemen to change on a fair basis, with all due regard for the protection of the Forest, their wishes should be respected.

Divisions of the Range

Southern Division – Cattle

Cattle Ranges	Area	Alienated Land	Sheep Trail	Approx. Forest Area	Permitted Stock 1909	Acreage per head
Mt. Vernon* –Beach Creek –Black Butte	22000	11680	680	9640	1876	5.1
Long Creek* –Camp Creek –Clifford –Long Creek –Fox –Slide Creek –Deer Creek	52000	14880	880	36240	2741	13.2
Cummings* –Cummings –Timbered Basin	11520	3800	720	7000	360	19.4
At Large					432	
Totals	85520	30360	2280	52880	5409	9.7
Recommendations – 1910.						
Mt. Vernon Cattle Range				9640	800	12.0
Long Creek Cattle Range				36240	3000	12.0
Cummings Cattle Range				7000	400	17.0
At Large					500	
Totals				52880	4700	11.0
Recommended Total Allowance					4700	

*Combined Cattle Ranges.

Southern Division – Sheep

Sheep Ranges	Area	Alienated Land	Sheep Trail	Approx. Forest Area	Permitted Stock 1909	Acreage per head
Rudio, McHaley	69984	32360	2800	34824	17797	1.9
Nipple Butte	92320	40560	3000	48760	17868	2.8
Totals	162304	72920	5800	83584	35665	2.3

Recommendations – 1910.

Rudio, McHaley	34824	11608	3.0
Nipple Butte	48760	16500	3.0
Totals	83584	28108	3.0
Recommended Total Allowance		29000	

Total area allotted to sheep –	83,584	acres
Total area allotted to cattle –	<u>52,880</u>	acres
Total grazing area in southern d.	136,464	acres

Total number sheep grazed –	1909	35,665
Recommended allowance –	1910	<u>29,000</u>
Total reduction		6,665

Sliding Scale Reductions.

Southern Division.

Owing to the necessity for making a heavy reduction on the old users of the Forest, no new owners should be allowed during the season of 1910.

The protective limit should be fixed at 1100 head of sheep.

All permits for less than 1100 head of sheep may be increased 10 per cent, provided none go above 1100 head.

All permits for from 1100 to 2000 head of sheep will be reduced 30 per cent, provided none go below 1200 head.

All permits for from 2000 to 3000 head will be reduced 40 per cent, provided none go below the highest number in the next lower grade, or 1400 head.

All permits for more than 3000 head of sheep will be reduced 50 per cent, provided none go below the highest number in the next lower grade, or 1800 head.

Southern Division, Summer Grazing.

Permittee	Approved	Increase	Reduction	Rec. No.	Remarks
Beck Estate	1200		100	1100	
Bowman, F.D.	1200		100	1100	
Casseday, J.H.	1520		420	1100	80% by purchase.

Permittee	Approved	Increase	Reduction	Rec. No.	Remarks
Chapman, Wm.	1200		100	1100	
Cochran, Emmett	2720		1080	1632	
Fields, Frank	450	150		600	
Gienger, John	672	67		739	
Harer & Son	1500		400	1100	
Harper, M.B.	110	90		200	
Harer, Grant	1900		570	1330	
Harris, S.G.	240	360		600	
Jackson Estate	1200		100	1100	
Keeney, W.G.	288	312		600	
Keeney, F.	420	180		600	
Keeney, T.B.	420	180		600	
Kilkenny, Jno.	2400		960	1440	
Merrill & Son	1200		100	1100	
Mascall, W.R.	1200		100	1100	
McHaley, G.V.	1200		100	1100	
Paine, Leet	1200		100	1100	
Round, F.M.	1805		541	1264	
Snyder, R.S.	1200		100	1100	
Stirritt, W.H.	1200		100	1100	
Simas, J.J.	450			450	Permit on Whitman.
Sweek, L.	2295		895	1400	
Thompson Bros.	1075	25		1100	
Total	30265	1364	5874	25755	

Winter Grazing.

MacRae, Kenneth	1200		100	1100	
Robertson, Newt	3700		2700	1000	On & Off
Swick, D.D.	500			500	
Total	5400		2800	2600	

Total permit number – 1909 35665
Recommended reduction in accordance with sliding scale 7310

28355

The northern and southern divisions of the Umatilla National Forest are not closely identified in any way, therefore, it should not be considered as a unit, but the reductions made in accordance with the needs of each division.

The recommended cattle allowance for the grazing year of 1910 being 709 head less than allowed during the grazing year 1909, does not mean that a reduction of the number is necessary, but that Supervisor Chidsey should issue more "on and off" permits to the cattlemen using the Beach Creek cattle range.

The average number of sheep grazed under each permit based on last year's allowance is 1226 sheep. With the reduction this year 1000 sheep will be the average, therefore, the applications of new owners for the grazing season of 1910 should not be approved for more than one-fourth the protective limit, or 225 sheep, providing no further reductions are necessary.

Divisions of the Range

Northern Division – Cattle

Cattle Ranges	Area	Alienated Land	Sheep Trail	Approx. Forest Area	Permitted Stock 1909	Acreage per Head
Lone Rock	18560	2640	1680	14240	1163	12.2
Tamarack* –Tamarack –Bologna –Monument	35100	2920	400	31780	1557	20.4
Hardman	10240	1280		8960	841	10.6
Madison	2880	360		2520	48	52.5
Black Mt.	2880	160	480	2240	265	8.5
Five Mile	24320	1280		23040	2083	11.0
At Large					300	
Total	93980	8640	2560	82780	6257	13.2

Recommendations – 1910

Lone Rock	14240	1150	12.0
Tamarack	31780	2100	15.0
Hardman	8960	750	12.0

Cattle Ranges	Area	Alienated Land	Sheep Trail	Approx. Forest Area	Permitted Stock 1909	Acreage per Head
Madison				2520	210	12.0
Black Mt.				2240	190	12.0
Five Mile				23040	2100	11.0
At Large					300	
Totals				82780	6800	12.1
Recommended Total Allowance					6800	

* Bologna Mutual Sheep and Cattle Range.

Northern Division – Sheep

Sheep Ranges	Area	Alienated Land	Sheep Trail	Approx. Forest Area	Permitted Stock 1909	Acreage per Head
Wall Creek	45540	5160	2000	38280	14303	2.6
Potamus	141916	29880	5200	106836	31332	3.4
Butte Cr. L. & L. Co.	4800	2280	480	2040	no permit	
John Madden	5940	840	480	4620	2400	1.9
Total	198196	38160	8160	151776	48035	3.1

Recommendations – 1910

Wall Creek	38280	9570	4.0
Potamus	106836	31190	3.4
Butte Cr. L. & L. Co.	2040	700	3.0
John Madden	4620	1540	3.0
Total	151776	43000	3.5
Summer Range	43000		
Winter Range	<u>3000</u>		
Recommended Total Allowance	46000		
Total area allotted to sheep	151776		
Total area allotted to cattle	<u>82780</u>		
Total grazing area in N. Division	234556	Acres.	
Total number sheep grazed – Summer 1909	48035		
Recommended allowance Summer 1910	<u>43000</u>		
Total reduction	5035		

Sliding Scale Reductions.

Northern Division.

Owing to the necessity for making a heavy reduction on the old users of the Forest, no new owners should be allowed during the season of 1910.

The protective limit should be fixed at 1100 head of sheep.

All permits for less than 1100 head of sheep may be increased 10 per cent, provided none go above 1100 head.

All permits for from 1100 to 2000 head of sheep will be reduced 20 per cent, provided none go below 1100 head.

All permits for from 2000 to 3000 head of sheep will be reduced 30 per cent, provided none go below the highest number in the next lower grade or 1600 sheep.

All permits for more than 3000 head of sheep will be reduced 40 per cent, provided none go below the highest number in the next lower grade or 2100 sheep.

Northern Division, Summer Grazing – Sheep

Permittee	Approved	Increase	Reduction	Rec. No.	Remarks
Bennett, W. J.	1000	100		1100	
Bennett, I. C.	1200		100	1100	
Beymer, J. W.	1890		378	1512	
Boone, G. W.	1200		100	1100	
Butte Cr. L. & L. Co.	1200		100	1100	
Dennison Bros.	1200		100	1100	
Ely, Chas.	800	80		880	
Frizzell, M. L.	1200		100	1100	
Florence, A. L.	336	264		600	
Gentry, L. V.	1200		100	1100	
Hardie, Alex.	1000	100		1100	
Hardie, David	1282		182	1100	
Huffer, G. B.	1200		100	1100	
Hisler, Paul	1200		100	1100	

Permittee	Approved	Increase	Reduction	Rec. No.	Remarks
Kenny, Mike	1624		324	1300	
Kelly Estate	1400		280	1120	
Madden, John	1200		100	1100	
Maidment, J. W.	1100			1100	
Minor Bros.	5866		2346	3520	
McCracken, M.	1200		100	1100	
Mollohen & Byrne	1200		100	1100	
Meyers, G. C.	516	84		600	
Nunamaker & Wilcox	1200		100	1100	
Nunamaker S. & L. Co.	2520		756	1764	
Penland, Lafe	1467		293	1174	
Russell, Kate	1600		320	1280	
Schafer, Oscar	1962		392	1570	
Scott, Nat	1200		100	1100	
Sperry, G. W.	1467		293	1174	
Steward, Wm.	1200		100	1100	
Straight, W. B.	1200		100	1100	
Wright, G. E.	1200		100	1100	
Wright, A. E.	1200		100	1100	
Perry, Geo.	1805		361	1444	
Total	48035	628	7625	41038	
Winter Grazing					
Marcus, J. J.	1200		100	1100	
Simas, J. J.	1600		320	1280	
Totals	50835	628	8045	43418	
Mattock, T. J. Reinstated				880	
Adams, John Reinstated				1100	
				45398	

The average number of sheep grazed under each permit based on last year's allowance is 1412 head; with the reduction this year, 1352 will be the average.

Recommended Grazing Allowance – 1910.

	Sheep	Cattle
Northern Division	46000	6800
Southern Division	<u>29000</u>	<u>4700</u>
Total	75000	11500

This makes a total of 11000 head of sheep and 1000 head of cattle less than the grazing allowance for 1909. In strict justice to the sheep range the reduction should be almost double this number, but owing to the few sheepmen owning more sheep than the protective limit number, the reduction would fall too heavily on a few. Out of a total of sixty-three sheep permittees only sixteen graze more sheep than the protective limit number, with only an average number of 1328 head of sheep, based on the 1909 allowance and 1154 based on the recommended allowance for 1910.

The actual number of cattle grazed on the Forest will not be any less than it was last season, although the allowance will be 1000 head less. It simply signifies that more "On & Off" permits should be issued by Supervisor Chidsey.

Grazing Seasons.

The grazing seasons seemed to be about right, with the exception of the summer grazing season for sheep. This season should be from July 1 to September 30, instead of from June 1 to October 15. This will materially ease up the summer ranges by giving them a good chance to start in the early season, as after two very dry seasons, together with the range overstocked, a continuation of the existing grazing practices will certainly be detrimental to the Forest. This change will meet with some opposition from the sheepmen, but the Supervisor may in his discretion allow permittees who can not hold off the range in the spring, the privilege of entering the Forest fifteen days prior to the opening of the regular grazing season, or to remain fifteen days after its expiration, if the conditions warrant it. The sheepmen are always anxious to get the young lambs on the soft feed as early as possible to insure good healthy lambs, regardless of the damage to the range. In ordinary years they can better afford to stay off the Forest a few weeks in the spring with the assurance that they will have feed for the hottest and driest part of the season.

Refunds.

Several bands of sheep on the Wall Creek District were compelled to leave the Forest in the early part of August on account of lack of feed. Very few bands will be able to remain during the entire grazing season in any part of the Forest, owing to the dry season and the overgrazed condition of the ranges. Therefore, refunds should be made

to all deserving permittees, who used their allotments in a conservative manner, for the part of the grazing season they were unable to stay on the Forest.

The application for a refund should originate with the permittee and should include a written request for the refund, giving his reasons therefor. This should then be forwarded to the District Office for final action.

To avoid any possibility of making refunds to undeserving permittees, the rangers were instructed in the early part of August to keep strict account of the number of sheep, date of entry, and date of leaving Forest, together with notes as to the manner in which each allotment was used and whether or not all the feed on their respective allotments was utilized.

Range Improvement

The development of water is one of the most important pieces of work ahead of the Supervisor of the Umatilla National Forest. The scarcity of water on the range has made it necessary for the sheep to trail long distances to water, also has resulted in great damage to the ranges. On account of the few camps which had sufficient water for stock it has been impossible to enforce Regulation 60.

There are dozens of small springs and seeps on this Forest which should be troughed as soon as the money is available. Supervisor Chidsey has a crew of men improving the Meeting, Mud and Rock springs at the present time. I would suggest that, owing to the unsettled condition of the estimated improvements on the southern division this year, on account of the proposed eliminations, that Supervisor Chidsey transfer some of his improvement money from those projects and use it for water development. I do not think that the Forest Service is doing any other class of improvement work which is appreciated by the public as much as water development, especially on grazing Forests, and we should make every effort to spend as much of the improvement fund on range development as possible.

Five Mile Drift Fence.

The cattlemen in the Five Mile Cattle Range are constructing a drift fence twelve or fifteen miles in length, entirely on their own responsibility. About three miles of this fence is completed at the present time. It consists of a good three wire fence across openings, with split tamarack posts sixteen feet apart and two wires through the heaviest thickets. They are certainly to be commended for this undertaking. I would be in favor of the Forest Service giving them some assistance had they not already purchased all their materials.

Supervisor Chidsey has no record of this use in his files, which should be covered by the usual special use permit. However, before the permit is issued or the fence constructed it should be determined beyond a doubt whether or not the proposed lines between the cattle and sheep ranges are correct.

Monument-Tamarack Drift Fence

This fence will commence on Wall Creek at the mouth of Little Wilson Creek, thence follow the summit in a southern and western direction to the Spray wagon road, thence down the east side of the Spray wagon road, joining the Carsuer fence. This will control the cattle in the Monument, Bologna and Tamarack cattle ranges. The proposed fence line is laid out in a very practicable route and undoubtedly will be as great a benefit to the sheepmen using the Wall Creek sheep range, as to the cattlemen in the above ranges. The fence line will be approximately 17½ miles in length. It could be continued to include the Lone Rock cattle range, if it were not impossible to fence across the Spray wagon road, which is a county road. On the basis of 330 pounds of barbed wire to the mile, it will take about 17,325 pounds for this fence and in addition about 500 pounds of staples to construct a three wire fence.

Supervisor Chidsey has 13,400 pounds of barbed wire in stock which was purchased from the balance of his 1909 authorization. I urgently recommend that he transfer a sufficient amount from some of the projects in the southern division, to purchase the 3,925 pounds barbed wire and 500 pounds of staples needed to complete this fence. I met several of the stockmen and they are anxious to take hold of this at once. They are desirous of getting the wire on the ground this fall, so they can commence work early in the spring and complete the fence before the cattle drift to the summit. Should this be authorized Supervisor Chidsey should have representative cattlemen from each cattle district sign the cooperative drift fence agreement.

Hardman Drift Fence.

This is one of the future improvements planned by Supervisor Chidsey to control the stock on the Hardman cattle range. It was to be approximately ten miles in length, with an estimated cost of \$817.42.

This fence should not be constructed in its present proposed location, as a county road between Heppner and Monument has been laid out and will split the range in two. To build this fence would be to fence across the county road and this could not be thought of.

When this work has definitely been decided upon, it may be possible to lay out this cattle range in such a manner that a drift fence may be constructed to give them the necessary protection. The cattlemen in this district take great pride in their range and should be given every encouragement possible.

Allotment of Grazing Privileges.

As the Forest has been under administration for only two seasons, with very badly overgrazed ranges to start with, it can hardly be expected to have everything in smooth running order. Many mistakes were made by the stock committees in allotting the

grazing privileges and many promises were made the stockmen in the early administration of the Forest, which could not in reason be kept. These conditions have made the Forest Service very unpopular. To overcome this opposition it will be necessary for Supervisor Chidsey to use tact and prudence. Every wish of the stockmen should be gratified, which is consistent with the rules and regulations of the Forest Service.

Each individual grazing right should be looked into carefully and where falsifications were made applicants should be reduced to their correct number or canceled, as the merits of the case justify.

Sheep Driveways.

The Forest has about 150 miles of sheep driveways, on which several hundred thousand sheep cross at least twice each year, therefore, too much stress can not be laid upon the importance of marking them well. Through lack of sufficient help this has been neglected in the past and every effort should be made to have all the sheep driveways thoroughly marked before the sheep enter in the spring.

The driveways should not be less than one-fourth or more than one-half mile in width, owing to the character of the country and the notices on the exterior limits of the driveway should be posted so that one notice could always be seen from the other. An effort will be made to have printed a new notice for marking the center of the driveway.

{signed} H.K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

Howard K. O'Brien,

September 1, 1909.

SECTION VIII – BOUNDARIES

This work was commenced on August 1, in charge of Deputy Supervisor Keithley, assisted by the different members of the local force. On account of other important work, Supervisor Chidsey placed this work in charge of Mr. Keithley. He is a very dependable man and I am sure this work will be done right and completed at the earliest possible date.

Northern Division

I think the lines of this division, which is the old Heppner Forest, were well drawn, as far as open or alienated lands were concerned and few changes will be necessary. Few eliminations of deeded or open land can be made, and the only possible addition would be Township 6 S., Range 30 E., W.M. This township includes the bulk of the timber lands belonging to the Northwest Timber Company. I understand all their holdings are in danger of being canceled by the Government on account of fraud. This is a fine body of timber, and would be a valuable addition to the Umatilla National Forest. From all the data I could obtain in the Supervisor's office, I estimated that about 16 per cent of this division was alienated lands.

Southern Division

Without a doubt, some very heavy elimination work will be done in this section of the Umatilla National Forest. From all the data obtainable in the Supervisor's office, I estimated that about 40 per cent is alienated land. Townships 10 and 11 S., Range 26; Townships 10 and 11 S., Range 27; Township 12 South, Range 29; Township 12 S., Range 30; Townships 10, 11, and 12 S., Range 32 E., W.M., contains large areas of alienated timber lands. I rode over enough of all this division to get a general idea of the character of the country. It is badly broken up with rough open ridges, the only vegetation in them being sage brush, juniper, and mountain mahogany. I am sure the final boundary report of Mr. Keithley will show a large per cent of the Forest land in these townships to be of this character, which are the reasons they were not taken for timber before the creation of the Forest. At the present time Supervisor Chidsey has the Rangers cruising these vacant pieces of land in view of ascertaining their true character and whether their retention will justify the cost of administration.

The small owners will likely petition against having the open lands and small areas of timber lands eliminated from the Forest and probably request the inclusion of other open lands not now within the boundaries. According to the present policy, the inclusion of additional open lands can not be thought of, as the Service is very liable to

be accused of trying to administer the grazing lands of the United States, which is not authorized by law, and has always met with much opposition in Congress.

As far as grazing is concerned, the administration of areas which show more than 50 per cent alienated land usually is a farce. However, in some instances by retaining such areas, it is possible to give small settlers a protection by the exchange of grazing lands with the lessees of the private lands under Regulation 65.

Recommendations:

Mr. Keithley and Supervisor Chidsey are both very familiar with the country and conditions and their boundary report can be relied upon.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Settlement

This work is of very little importance on this Forest. Owing to its recent creation practically all the agricultural lands, such as the mountain meadows, had been patented by the stock interests to control grazing. A total of only 14 applications has been received to date and without a doubt the future applications will be very limited.

This work was of such small importance that both the field and office end of it was neglected. The June 11th plat book had not been kept up, and no card reports (Form 348) were on file at all. Three applications received over a year ago had not been examined.

The following list shows the status of the different claims as shown by the Supervisor's records:

No. 1 – Frank Mitchell, Monument, Oregon. Denied, outside Forest.

No. 2 – Otis Cork, Monument, Oregon. Denied, outside Forest.

No. 3 – M. E. Sturdivant, Ukiah, Oregon. Denied, outside Forest.

No. 4 – Geo. M. Flower, Monument, Oregon. June 11th book shows his application was denied, but there is nothing in the records except township plat form 974.

No. 5 – Arthur B. Allen, Monument, Oregon. Form 124 shows that application was denied; Form 123 shows lands listed. Nothing in folder except township plat, form 974.

No. 6 – Mrs. Elizabeth Allen, Monument, Oregon. Form 124 indicates that application was denied; Form 123 shows lands listed. Nothing in folder except township plat, form 974.

No. 7 – Jas. P. Hawk, Fossil, Oregon. Application denied. Withdrawn for ranger station.

No. 8 – Leonard A. Allen, Monument, Oregon. Form 124 shows that the applicant was denied; Form 123 shows that land was listed. Nothing in folder except township plat, form 974.

No. 9 – N. H. Leathers, Hardman, Oregon. Application rejected. Land covered by homestead entry.

No. 10 – Blank.

No. 11 – Martin Reid, Heppner, Oregon. Not examined, although the application is dated 8/3/08. This should be attended to at once.

No. 12 – L. H. Powell, Galena, Oregon. Not examined, although the application is dated 10/28/08. Should be examined at once.

No. 35 – Albert Little, Kilbride, Oregon. Examined and 27½ acres recommended for listing.

No. 38 – R. W. Allen, Long Creek, Oregon. Not examined, although the application is dated 10/19/07. Should be examined at once.

No. 39 – Jas. S. McCullough, John Day, Oregon. Examined and listed.

Recommendations:

This list should be checked over and the Supervisor notified of any discrepancies in his records. The Supervisor should be instructed to have the three applications that have not been examined, attended to at once, before the close of this field season.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

Howard K. O'Brien,

September 1, 1909.

SECTION IX – PROTECTION & IMPROVEMENT

Improvements

An examination of the Supervisor's records showed that no separate folder accounts had been opened with each authorized project, but all correspondence relating to any designated cases had been filed in the station folders. Neither had the project ledger been kept up. Miss Knudson, the clerk, checked back through the vouchers and endeavored to straighten the accounts out in the best possible manner, although they could not be straightened out with any certainty.

The project ledger shows the following expenditures and balances for the fiscal year 1909:

Letter Authorization No. 377 – July 1, 1908,	\$1,258.95
Letter Authorization No. 1091 – Sept. 23 1908,	<u>569.28</u>
Total Allotment,	\$1,828.23

Project	Cost	Allotment
Martin Prairie Station – Fence	\$247.99	\$175.15
Bull Prairie Station – Fence	\$54.85	\$203.60
Cottonwood Station – Fence		\$257.50
Grouse Creek Station – Fence		\$211.90
Tamarack Station – Fence	\$45.00	\$204.80
Ellis Station – Fence	\$145.00	\$206.00
Willow Sp. Station – Fence	\$182.44	\$195.88
Whiskey Flat Station – Fence		\$153.40
Belshaw Station – Fence	\$60.00	
Ellis – Martin Trail	\$509.36	\$220.00
15,845# galv. barbed wire @ \$3.05 per cwt.	\$483.27	
By Balance	\$100.32	
	\$1,828.23	\$1,828.23

\$100.32 to transfer from 1909 improvement fund.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Martin Prairie Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$175.15. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$247.99 on this fence, \$72.84 having been transferred from various other projects.

Description of Fence

An irregular tract containing about 60 acres is fenced with a four pole swinging wire fence. Built of dead lodge poles with jacks about 16 ft. apart with one good swinging gate. Owing to its irregular shape it was impossible to get the exact number of rods, except by actual measurement.

This is an excellent summer station, good meadow feed, good patrol station and good point from which to administer the grazing. This is also connected with Heppner by a good wagon road. Assistant Ranger Shaner makes this his headquarters in the summer and deserves great credit for the manner in which he keeps it up, as the spring is barreled and there is a watering trough and hitching rack, the trees are trimmed, ground raked up and a large area cleared of fallen timber. Two good log cribs are built for the tents, which are enclosed with a good pole fence.

Recommendations:

The style of fence constructed on this station is excellent for any high station where the snow fall is heavy. It is similar to the swinging wire fence used by Supervisor Ireland on the Whitman National Forest, and I recommend its use on other Forests where there are similar conditions.

Assistant Ranger Shaner should be commended for the neat manner in which he has kept the surrounding grounds.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Bull Prairie Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$203.60. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$54.85, the balance of \$148.75 having been transferred to other projects. The balance of the expenditure on this fence was taken from the authorization for 1908 and no record kept, therefore, it is impossible to give the exact cost.

Description of Fence

Approximately 120 acres are fenced with three galvanized barbed wires, split tamarack posts set 16 ft. apart, 2 wire gates. The area enclosed includes about 25 acres of meadow land, the balance open timber. This station was formerly an old sheep camp, very badly overgrazed, but being enclosed for one year, the feed is fairly good. It is located about 2½ miles east of the Heppner-Spray wagon road, but the station can be reached with a wagon over a very rough road.

Deputy Ranger Wright makes this his summer headquarters. No other improvements have been made on this station and Ranger Wright seems to take very little pride in improving the place, although his family was residing there during the time of my visit.

Recommendations:

A good cabin should be built on this station and a wagon road constructed from the Heppner-Spray road. A small quantity of hay can easily be raised which will enable the ranger to make this his headquarters for at least eight months in the year. Supervisor Chidsey should purchase a small quantity of seed for this station from the authorization given him for reseeding experiments.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Cottonwood Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$257.50. No work was started and the amount was transferred to other projects.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Grouse Creek Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$211.90. No work was started and the amount was transferred to other projects.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Tamarack Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$204.80. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$45.00, the balance having been transferred to other projects.

This amount was expended for labor, making posts, etc., but during the progress of the work it was found that the withdrawal did not cover the right area. The original withdrawal was made in Sec. 9, T. 8 S., R. 26 E., W.M. The work was suspended and nothing further done. I was unable to visit station, therefore unable to submit any definite recommendations.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909, Ellis Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$206.00. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$145.00, \$61.00 having been transferred to other projects.

Between 40 and 50 acres have been fenced with a four logs fence, and two good pole gates. Dead logs were used entirely to fence this area. The tract fenced is very irregular, built along the edge of the timber, merely enclosing the meadow land. This is a good summer station and is connected with the Martin Prairie Station by the Ellis Martin Trail. No other improvements have been constructed on this station.

Forest Guards McAllister and Gilman make this their headquarters during the summer.

{signed} H.K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909. Willow Springs Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$195.88. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$182.44, \$13.44 having been transferred to other projects.

Approximately 100 acres are fenced with three galvanized barbed wires, split tamarack posts set 16 ft. apart, one wire gate. There is an excellent spring on this station which is walled up in good shape. Formerly this was a very badly overgrazed area, situated along sheep driveway No. 1, and only affords a small amount of pasture at the present time. A mistake was made in fencing as large an area as this, as its only value is for a short time in the spring and fall for counting sheep on driveway No. 1. The Bull Prairie Station is located only about 2½ miles from this station and the routine work of the district could easily have been handled from there. It is true that it is necessary to fence in a large area on account of the very poor quality of the feed, but a much smaller area would have answered the purpose equally as well.

Recommendations:

David Hardie committed a trespass on this area last season before it was fenced and evidently grazed off part of the feed inside the fence this year, although I could obtain no evidence, as this station is located in the sheep district and along sheep driveway No. 1, the present fence is an inadequate protection against sheep. Therefore, I recommend that at least five barbed wires or an 18 inch woven wire and two or three barbed wires be used on the station where sheep are liable to trespass, and especially on the stations along the main driveways. Precautions like this will save us many trespasses in the future.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Whiskey Flat Station Fence.

The original allotment for this project was \$153.40. No work was started, therefore, this amount was transferred to other projects.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909 Ellis–Martin Trail.

The original allotment for this project was \$220.00. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$509.36 during the fiscal year of 1909, \$289.36 having been transferred from other projects.

This is a trail estimated to be 11 miles in length, connecting the Ellis Station with the Martin Prairie Station. Only about 7 miles of this trail were constructed during the fiscal year of 1909, with an expenditure of \$509.36 or an average of about \$72.76 per mile. Considering that nothing but clearing was done, this cost seems excessive. The trail was cut out from Martin Prairie Station to Kelly Prairie, from 12 to 15 feet in width, no grading was done at all. The trail was laid out in good shape, straight in most instances, but several very heavy grades are on this trail which should be eliminated when the trail is graded and completed. I am satisfied the reason why this trail cost so much per mile was the work was done during the month of November, when the men could not work to advantage on account of the snow and frozen ground. Practically all this work was done by men on the permanent force, at the time of year when it is impossible for them to do other field work. This trail was to be completed from the 1910 authorization and will be covered in my report under future improvements.

Recommendations:

This trail should be graded and the heavy grades eliminated. This will necessitate a few crooks in the present trail for a wagon to follow, but the present trail can be followed

with a horse. The ground is loose and easily worked, therefore, the cost of grading should not exceed \$20.00 per mile.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1909. Belshaw Station Fence.

No allotment was made for this project, but \$20.79 was transferred from the Willow Springs Station Fence and \$39.21 from the Whiskey Flat Station Fence. The project ledger shows a total expenditure of \$60.00.

I visited this station and found that absolutely nothing had been done in the way of improvements. Supervisor Chidsey stated that he started a crew from Heppner in April to construct this fence, but they were unable to do anything on account of the heavy snows, therefore, he was compelled to pay them wages and team hire from the time they left Heppner until their return.

Exceedingly poor judgment was used by Supervisor Chidsey in this particular case, as he should have known that a station of that altitude could not be worked to advantage at that time of year.

Recommendations:

Supervisor Chidsey should be cautioned to use the improvement fund with greater care. I feel that allowances should be made for mistakes, but in this case some just criticism is due the Supervisor.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1910 Ellis–Martin Trail.

The total authorization to complete this trail was \$275.00. The project ledger shows that \$180.00 has been expended in cutting out the trail from Kelly Prairie to Ellis Station, leaving an unexpended balance of \$95.00.

This trail was cleared from Martin Prairie Station to Kelly Prairie during the fall of 1908, and \$275.00 was the estimated cost of completing the trail to Ellis Station. This is a very important trail and is laid out in a very practicable manner, with few exceptions. It has been cleared out from 12 to 15 feet in width and will make a good wagon road with the exceptions of a few steep pitches, which should be eliminated when the trail is graded.

The total cost of clearing this trail has been \$689.36 or \$62.67 per mile, exclusive of any grading. It was impossible to burn the refuse from cutting on account of danger from fire.

Recommendations:

This trail should be graded the entire length and the few steep pitches eliminated, so that it will be easily accessible for a wagon. It should also be thoroughly posted with trail posters.

{signed} H.K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

**Umatilla – Improvements – 1910
Potamus Trail.**

The total authorization for this project is \$350.00. The work has not been started.

I was unable to inspect this proposed trail, but could see the character of the country from the Ellis–Martin Trail. It will pass through a dense timber belt which at present time is almost inaccessible. This trail is very necessary to reach the country east of Potamus Creek, saving a long distance around by wagon.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

**Umatilla – Improvements – 1910
Belshaw Station Fence.**

The authorization for this project is \$226.00. I do not believe it advisable for Superintendent Chidsey to commence work on this station, as it is located in the southern division of his Forest, in the midst of private lands and probably will be eliminated. At least no work should be done on this station until the boundary question is definitely settled. The money allotted for this project can easily be used in the northern division, where the boundaries are practically settled.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

**Umatilla – Improvements – 1910
Hyu Station Fence.**

The authorization for this project is \$285.60. This is the one station in the southern division that can be improved this season without any danger of elimination, as it is situated in the largest block of Forest land. This is an excellent station, situated in the heart of the sheep district and very much needed by Ranger Shields.

About 40 acres of the meadow land and 40 of the hillside will be sufficient area to be fenced. A good cabin should be constructed on this station as soon as the necessary funds are available.

Recommendations:

The withdrawal of this station has been requested, but not withdrawn, but as the land is essentially non-mineral and no danger of conflicting claims, I recommend that Supervisor Chidsey be instructed to commence work on this station at once.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

**Umatilla – Improvements – 1910
Hillside Station Fence.**

The authorization for this project is \$225.48. This station is located about one and one-half miles from Long Creek, Oregon; the county road splitting the station in two. The quality of feed is very poor and the station generally is anything but desirable.

I do not believe it advisable for Supervisor Chidsey to commence work on this project, as it is located in the southern division of the Forest, in the midst of private lands and probably will be withdrawn. I am sure that when Supervisor Chidsey looks into this station carefully he will abandon it anyway.

Recommendations:

No work should be done on this project until the boundary question is thoroughly settled. The money allotted for this project should be transferred to some of the other projects in the northern division.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

**Umatilla – Improvements – 1910
Dunning's Station Fence.**

The authorization for this project is \$340.14. This station is located just outside the boundary of the Forest. I did not get to inspect it, but Supervisor Chidsey informed me that it was a very poor one and he intended to abandon it, therefore, no money should be expended on this project and the money allotted should be transferred.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1910 Whiskey Flat Station Fence.

The authorization for this project is \$220.08. About 70 per cent of the township in which this station is located is alienated land, therefore, it is very probable that it will be eliminated.

Recommendations:

The money allotted for this project should be transferred to some of the projects in the northern division.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – 1910 Meeting Spring, Rock Spring, Mud Spring

The authorization for each of these projects is \$28.30. They are all very important springs and need troughing badly. Supervisor Chidsey has a crew of men improving them at the present time. It is very doubtful whether his present authorization will be sufficient to do all this work in first class shape.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – Future Tupper Station Fence.

The Supervisor's records do not show that he has any authorization for this project, but he has just completed fencing 120 acres at this station. His records do not show that it has been withdrawn, but as the land is non-mineral in character and no conflicting claims, it is not probable he will have any trouble from that source.

This is the best fence I saw on the Forest. Split tamarack and fir posts, charred at the butts, were driven 16 feet apart and four galvanized barbed wires used, with the exception of about one-half along the sheep driveway where the posts were set 8 feet apart and five wires were used to prevent sheep from entering the pasture. A good swinging pole gate was also built in a convenient location.

The feed in the pasture was of very poor quality, hence the necessity for fencing such a large area, but the pasture is in a good location for fire patrol and administration of the stock interests.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – Future

Coffee Mill Spring, Crabtree Spring, Happy Jack Spring, Harrington Spring

These are all important springs as well as numerous others, which should be improved at the earliest possible time. The development of water is one of the most important pieces of work ahead of the Supervisor on this Forest. The scarcity of water has made it necessary for the stock to trail long distances to water, thereby injuring the range by excessive trailing. The demand for grazing on this Forest is so great that every spear of grass should be made to count.

Recommendations:

Supervisor Chidsey should use all the improvement fund possible toward the development of water on the Forest. Undoubtedly he will have surplus funds left from the authorized projects in the southern division, and a part of this at least should be used for this purpose.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – Future

Hardman Drift Fence.

This is one of the future improvements planned by Supervisor Chidsey to control the stock on the Hardman Cattle Range. It was to be about 10 miles in length, with an estimated cost of \$817.42.

Since planning this fence, the county has surveyed a road between Hardman and Monument that splits this district in two, therefore it will be necessary to abandon this project, unless new lines are made. It will be impossible to fence across the county road and the fence would not be effective unless we could.

When this road is definitely decided upon by the county officials it may be possible to lay out this cattle range so a drift fence can be constructed without interfering with the travel, and yet give the stockmen the protection they desire.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Improvements – Future

Monument–Tamarack Drift Fence.

This fence is laid out in a very practicable manner, commencing on Wall Creek at the mouth of Little Wilson Creek, thence following the summit in a south and westerly direction to the Heppner–Spray wagon road, thence down the east side of said wagon

road to the Carsner fence. This will control the cattle in the Monument, Bologna and Tamarack cattle ranges, also protect the sheepmen using the Wall Creek sheep range. At the present time there is a good deal of friction between the cattlemen and sheepmen on account of the cattle drifting on sheep range. This fence will settle that question.

The fence line will be approximately 17½ miles in length. On the basis of 330 pounds of barbed wire to the mile, it will take about 17,325 pounds for this fence and about 500 pounds of staples, to construct a three wire fence.

Supervisor Chidsey has 13,400 pounds of barbed wire in stock, which he purchased from the balance of his 1909 improvement authorization. I urgently recommend that he transfer a sufficient amount from some of the other projects authorized on the southern division, to enable him to purchase the 3,925 pounds of barbed wire and 500 pounds of staples needed to complete this fence. I met several of the stockmen and they are very anxious to take hold of this at once. This should be authorized at once, to enable the stockmen to get all the material on the ground early this fall, before the bad weather, as they will have a wagon haul of about 50 miles from Heppner. By getting the material on the ground this fall, they can make their posts this winter and complete the fence before the stock drift up to the summit in the spring.

As soon as this is authorized Supervisor Chidsey should have representative stockmen from each cattle district benefited, sign the cooperative drift fence agreement.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST

Howard K. O'Brien,

September 1, 1909.

SECTION XI – ORGANIZATION

Umatilla – Personnel,
Chidsey, Thomas E.

Thomas E. Chidsey, a man 33 years of age, was appointed an Assistant Forest Ranger on the Wallowa National Forest on December 1, 1905 at a salary of \$900.00 per annum. In February, 1907, he was transferred to the Heppner National Forest, assuming charge and afterward promoted to the position of Forest Supervisor at a salary of \$1,700.00 per annum.

Mr. Chidsey's services on the Wallowa National Forest were satisfactory, with few exceptions. He uses deceptively, ambiguous or evasive language at times, but mostly of a harmless nature, and I think his general standing in the community is good. What few faults he may have is certainly offset by his many good qualities. He has had a very difficult proposition to handle, caused by strong adverse local sentiment, possibly due to promises made to the stockmen in the early administration of the Forest which were impossible to keep. The adverse sentiment is still very strong and Supervisor Chidsey should be more tactful than he is in handling the users of the Forest.

I do not think he is able to get the work out of his force that he should, in other words, his organization is very poor. Some allowances should be made for the conditions I found on his Forest this season, as he was quarantined for about two months, which necessarily left this important work neglected.

He was practically born and raised in that country, is fully acquainted with local conditions, is a thorough stockman and has good ideas generally about field work. He is not a good office man, depending on several very inefficient clerks for this end of the work, which has balled the records up in good shape.

I heard a good deal of complaint about his administration in the south end of the Forest, which I think was due to him not getting into that country often enough and meeting the people. A great many stockmen requested that the southern division of the Umatilla be placed under Supervisor Bingham's administration, as they did most of their business in John Day and the mail and telephone service was so poor from that point to Heppner. You could never depend on the telephone, and it takes at least six days to get a reply by mail. On my suggestion he moved Ranger Shields from Long Creek to John Day, which I am sure will eliminate his trouble from that source.

Recommendations

I think his administration generally has been very satisfactory and he should be commended for the administration he has given. He has had a more difficult proposition to handle than most Supervisors.

I think he should be satisfied with his present salary for a year at least, considering the small Forest he has to handle.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

{If not likely to get much better than this indicates, should be borne in mind for dropping to deputy when can get a better supervisor. ETA}

Umatilla – Personnel,
Keithley, C. L.

Mr. Keithley is a married man, about 37 years of age; was appointed a Forest Guard on April 1, 1908 at a salary of \$900.00 per annum; promoted to Assistant Forest Ranger September 25, 1908 at the same salary. His work has been most commendable and I regret that he cannot be promoted to Deputy Forest Supervisor with the salary he merits, at once. He is the most dependable man on the Forest, and decidedly the best material for the deputyship.

He is a local man, having been raised in Heppner and vicinity. He is a good field man, and will make a good office man, being neat and particular about all his work. His standing is excellent and absolutely dependable in every way.

Recommendations

He should be promoted to Deputy Supervisor at a salary of \$1,200.00 per annum as soon as possible. This promotion should not be overlooked, as Mr. Keithley's earning capacity is greater than he is receiving from the Service at the present time.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Shaner, Omar W.

Omar W. Shaner is a single man, 37 years of age; was appointed a Forest Guard April 1, 1908; promoted to Assistant Forest Ranger at the same salary on Sept. 25, 1908.

His services have been very satisfactory and he certainly merits a promotion in both rank and salary. He is a thorough field man, well acquainted with the Forest and

surrounding conditions. He has handled the office very creditably a number of times in the absence of Supervisor Chidsey.

The one objection to him in the office, is his desire to shift responsibility, leaving all the important work for the Supervisor's return. He is very neat and particular about his office work, and the neatness of "Shaner's Camp" at Martin Prairie Station is the talk of the surrounding country. He handled his district in the Forest in a most commendable manner, especially the grazing problems.

Recommendations

He should be promoted to Forest Ranger at a salary of \$1,100.00 per annum at the earliest possible time. This promotion should not be overlooked, as the Service may lose a good man.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Knudson, Thyra O.

Miss Thyra O. Knudson is about 21 years of age; was appointed a clerk on the Umatilla National Forest from the eligible list in February 25, 1909. She is good in taking dictation; an excellent operator; and is a very bright and capable girl, but she seemed to have lost interest in her work. She is not satisfied with her location for one thing and I am sure she expects to resign in the near future.

Supervisor Chidsey has been in the habit of leaving her in charge of the office in his absence, with little work for her to do, which I do not think a good idea. While I was there she was not punctual in getting to the office at all.

Recommendation

I am sure she would be excellent help in any office where she was satisfied. She was desirous of being transferred, but I am quite sure she expects to resign. However, the question of her transfer might be taken up if any openings occur.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Shields, Julius M.

Julius M. Shields is a married man 37 years of age; was appointed a Forest Guard April 21, 1908 at a salary of \$900.00 per annum; was promoted to Assistant Forest Ranger on September 25, 1908 at the same salary.

His work has been very satisfactory to Supervisor Chidsey and I took particular pains to look into his standing, finding that everyone had perfect confidence in him. He is a good field man, uses good judgement and a very earnest worker.

He was stationed at Long Creek, Oregon, where he has lived for 35 years, and his removal to John Day, I think will be very beneficial to him as well as give better administration all around. He has numerous relatives around Long Creek, who were permittees on the Forest, which made him liable to some criticism, although no one could find fault with his honest decisions.

Recommendation

Mr. Shields should be promoted to Deputy Forest Ranger at a salary of \$1,000.00 per annum.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Wright, Sylvanus.

Sylvanus Wright is a married man 38 years of age, holding the position of Deputy Forest Ranger at a salary of \$1,100.00 per annum.

I was only able to meet Mr. Wright, therefore, can not make any positive statements as to his efficiency. Supervisor Chidsey claims he is a splendid field man, and his services satisfactory in many ways. The Supervisor has been bothered a great deal by people desiring to collect debts from Mr. Wright through the Service. Evidently he is in the habit of contracting debts without the least intention of ever paying them. This alone, makes the public lose confidence in him. Supervisor Chidsey also told me that he was satisfied Mr. Wright spent much of his time loafing around Hardman, gambling. I regret very much that I could not take the time to look into this case thoroughly, as it should be looked into at once. However, the following letters were in the files which plainly show how he ignores his creditors. Mrs. Coffey is his sister and is at the present time earning a living for herself and family by cooking in the Long Creek Hotel, Long Cr., Oregon. I understood that he purchased her interest in his father's estate for \$800.00 and she now offers to give him a clear title for \$200.00. Apparently he has ignored all her requests up to the present time.

Copies of Letters.

Beech Creek, Oregon,
July 1, 1909.

Mr. Chidsey,

Sir:

I want you to do me a favor, that is to see Sylvanus Wright and ask him why he did not answer my letter. Mr. Coffey is dead, died May 2, 1909 and now the estate has to be settled, and he is owing me for land in the Hardman country and I wrote to him and told him if he would pay me \$200, I would receipt him in full and he has failed to answer me. If he dont attend to it at once, I will be compelled to put it in my attorney's hands for immediate collection. I am in debt and I can not pay if people wont pay me, and I believe he will heed to you perhaps and it is necessary that he should. He knows he ows it. Now he passed through here some time ago, went below here a few miles and stayed all night. Why he did not stop and Mr. Coffey so low is more than I can comprehend. This is charity and sisterly love to humanity, that you talk to him. I dont care to make him cost but if he compels me to I will have to. Just ask him if he is treating me as he would like to be treated, just read him this letter. I am broke up over the way he has done in the matter. You answer me immediately.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) MRS. R. J. COFFEY

Long Creek, July 22, 1909.

Mr. Thomas Chidsey:

As you did not write me what Sylvanus said he was going to do, I will write again. Now it is just this way, if he dont pay me it leaves me hard circumstances. There is a mortgage on my house and it is about due and if he will pay me the \$200 I can pay the note off and save myself and if he dont I am compelled to push him; that I dont like to do, he being my brother, but such will be the case. The parties who hold the mortgage wants the place back, 640 acres with 4 million feet of yellow pine timber. Now Mr. Chidsey I want you to find out what he is going to do and write and tell me, as I have no time to fool. I will push him if I dont hear from him immediately. I dont know what he means, without he has lost all the sympathy he ever had for me or has lost his mind. If it was he instead of myself and I had no money, I should have borrowed it before now and sent it to him. Let me hear from you at once. Show him this letter. I would write to him but he would only say he did not get my letters.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) MRS. R. G. COFFEY

Recommendation

Supervisor Chidsey should look into this case at once, and submit his recommendations as to the advisability of retaining Mr. Wright in the Service.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien

Umatilla – Personnel,
Waterbury, Claude W.

Claude W. Waterbury is a married man 27 years of age; was appointed an Assistant Forest Ranger February 20, 1909, at a salary of \$900.00 per annum.

Previous to his appointment, he worked on improvements. His services have been very satisfactory to Supervisor Chidsey both in the improvement work and since his appointment. He has a good education, his reports are clear, concise and legible, and he is very prompt in cleaning up all work assigned to him. I am satisfied he is going to make a good man for the Service, when he has more experience.

Recommendation

Supervisor Chidsey should give Mr. Waterbury yearlong work if possible, and his salary should be raised to \$1,000.00 per annum on January 1, 1909.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
McAllister, Charles R.

Charles R. McAllister is a married man 36 years of age; was appointed a Forest Guard on May 20, 1909.

He is a man of mature judgment, good disposition and very tactful in handling the users of the Forest. He has followed dry farming in the Heppner Valley since 1882, therefore, is not very familiar with the work he is now doing. I was very favorably impressed with McAllister.

He expressed his desire to take the next ranger's examination and continue to work for the Forest Service.

Recommendation

The Supervisor should give him the chance to make good as a permanent man, should he be placed on the eligible list.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Shields, William E.

William E. Shields is a man 25 years of age; was appointed a temporary Forest Guard on May 20, 1909.

He is a very boyish looking fellow, with a good disposition, but probably thinks more of a bronco and a general good time than he does his position. He is not a man that would inspire very much confidence with the public. He was born and raised in the interior and his chief aspirations are to be a cowboy.

Mr. Frank Russell, Manager of the Hamilton Trading Co., Hamilton, Oregon, told me Mr. Shields owed them about \$32.00 and they consider the account worthless. Repeated duns have been of no avail.

Recommendations

The Supervisor should keep careful check on his work this season, and unless he shows marked improvement, he should not be given future consideration.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Adkins, James R.

James R. Adkins is a man 22 years of age; was appointed a temporary Forest Guard on July 20, 1909, at a salary of \$900.00 per annum.

Mr. Adkins is a good clean, honest fellow, but with little experience in the mountains. He has a good education and has taken up the work with the expectation of staying with it permanently. He has been working with Ranger Shaner since his appointment, who has great confidence in him.

Recommendation

Should Mr. Adkins become an eligible, Supervisor Chidsey should give him an opportunity to prove his worth, with the expectation of making him a permanent man in the Service.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Musgrave, Thos. M.

Thomas M. Musgrave is a single man 35 years of age; was appointed a temporary Forest Guard July 20, 1909.

He has the reputation of being a very sober, industrious and trustworthy man. He is not a man that you would expect to progress in any line of work very fast, but you could depend on him for a good day's work whether you were watching him or not. He owns a ranch adjoining the Forest and he and his brother have the mail contract between Hardman and Spray, Oregon.

Recommendation

I do not think that Mr. Musgrave has any intention of taking up the work in the Forest Service permanently, but Supervisor Chidsey should give him consideration for temporary work in the future.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Gilman, Walter L.

Walter L. Gilman is a single man, 22 years of age; was appointed a temporary Forest Guard on July 1, 1909.

He is young and inexperienced in this kind of work and lacks mature judgment. He has been working from the same summer camp as McAllister, on account of the scarcity of fenced pastures. He waits until McAllister starts out in the morning, then follows him, evidently being afraid to venture in the strange woods alone. I think he is a good steady man, and is generally well thought of.

Recommendations

Unless Mr. Gilman takes more interest in his work and shows more inclinations to look after himself, and assume some responsibility, Supervisor Chidsey should not give him future consideration.

{signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.

Umatilla – Personnel,
Woodson, Rolla C.

Rolla C. Woodson is a married man about 26 years of age; was appointed a Forest Guard on July 1, 1909.

Mr. Woodson seems to be an ambitious sort of a chap, and can take hold of a proposition when he wants to, but as a rule does not take much interest in the things connected with the Service. He might, placed on his own responsibility, make a good showing, but I hardly think so. I was unable to see very much of Woodson, but firmly believe that he is a man that will not make good.

Recommendation.

Supervisor Chidsey should keep a close record of Mr. Woodson's work this summer, through Ranger Julius M. Shields, who is a very dependable fellow, and if he does not show more interest in his work, steps should be taken to have him removed.

{Signed} H. K. O'Brien
Chief of Grazing.